



## LEARNING CYBERSECURITY

# 'Best defence is a good offence'

OVER the past two years, the Covid-19 pandemic has been driving a shift towards remote working, online learning, as well as the rise of e-wallets, e-commerce and more.

Along with this sudden digital shift also comes heightened concerns on cybersecurity, which in turn, has increased the demand for professionals who possess skills and knowledge to prevent and mitigate cyberattacks.

With cyberattacks becoming common and destructive, cybersecurity is now one of the fastest growing industries.

According to Tunku Abdul Rahman University College's (TAR UC) Faculty of Computing and Information Technology (FOCS) principal lecturer Ts Lim Mei Shyan, the more digitalised processes are, the higher the likelihood of having system vulnerabilities.

Hence, more information security professionals are needed to work in tandem with IT practitioners to reinforce company systems, applications, equipment and devices on a regular basis.

"There has definitely been a boom in Malaysia's digital landscape as compared to five years ago. Local industries, including SMEs and SMIs, have or will be undergoing digital transformations to maintain a competitive edge to fulfil the demand from consumers."

Since 2013, the Bachelor of Information Technology (Honours) in Information Security offered by TAR UC's FOCS has been designed to equip students with skills and knowledge in information security.

The programme structure is designed based on the Body of Knowledge of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency Computing programme standard, as well as the domains of ISCI2 Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification, Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA), CompTIA Security+, CompTIA PenTest+ and the EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), which are industry benchmarks for graduates of information technology and information security.



Ts Lim Mei Shyan

Students of TAR UC's Bachelor of Information Technology (Honours) in Information Security programme are also given the opportunity to take the CCNA or CompTIA Security+ professional certifications as the programme will prepare them for the professional exams.

Lim said a determination and passion to learn and explore new technologies and skills are important attributes for one to pursue a career in this field.

"It is always challenging for information security professionals to protect company assets, data and systems, as there are many attack vectors in the various systems that can be compromised."

"Due to the rapid changes in technology, one would need to understand how things work and how they can be compromised. Only then will we know how to protect them from potential cyberattacks."

"One would also need to be resilient when facing challenges to solve cybersecurity problems to quickly reduce the impact of the damage," she added.

She also emphasised the important role that information security plays in the field of information technology.

"Do not limit your career options only to cybersecurity professionals. Even if you are employed as a web developer or mobile app developer, it is crucial to learn how to develop a secure website or application. As the saying goes, the best defence is a good offence," she said.

To find out more, log on to [www.tarc.edu.my/focs](http://www.tarc.edu.my/focs).

